2nd March 1955]

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) & (b) There has been no recent enhancement in the rate of surcharge collected by the South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company, Limited, from their consumers. However, the licensee has been permitted to increase his tariffs applicable to all H.T. consumers and L.T. agricultural consumers by 10 per cent with effect from the date of taking meter readings in November 1954, in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. A copy of the resolutions passed at a special meeting of the agricultural and other electricity consumers held on 6th November 1954 at Cuddalore, protesting against the 10 per cent increase in the tariff referred to above, among others, was received by Government. The position was explained to the convener of the special meeting on 24th January 1955."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" The surcharge of 10 per cent was levied as a sort of temporary war measure. But now it has become a permanent feature. May I know whether there is any proposal to give up this surcharge on electricity? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" This does not arise out of the main question. A separate question may be put."

Project Advisory Committee, Malabar

* 1024 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state how many times the Project Advisory Committee in Malabar met since it was formed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Vide answer to clause (b) of question No. 925 given in the Assembly on 26th February 1955."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Government have instructed the authorities in Malabar that at least in future they should convene the meeting of the Project Advisory Committee more often and also take the suggestions and opinions of the non-official members of the Committee so that the work may be carried out in good order? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have instructed the officers concerned that they should hold periodical meetings and also take the advice and suggestions of the non-official members. But they could not be expected to accept invariably all the suggestions."

Reorganization of Revenue Administration

* 1025 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the District Revenue Administration Reorganization Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The Committee's recommendations are being examined by the Government and it may take some time for them to arrive at decisions."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know the terms of reference to the Committee and whether the co-ordination of the work of the various departments at the district level is one of them, as such co-ordination will minimise red-tapism? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" To expedite the disposal of business is one of the terms of reference."

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" May I know whether there is a proposal to bifurcate the taluks so that each unit of administration may be more compact than at present? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have not gone through the full report; I have read only a summary of it. So I am sorry I am unable to say the exact recommendations of the Committee."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கிராம முன்சீப், கிராமக் கணக்குப்பிள்ளை ஆகியவர்களுடைய சர்விஸ், சம்பள விகிதம் ஆகியவைகளைப்பற்றியும் அந்தக் கமிட்டி விசாரணை செய்து சிபாரிசு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கமிட்டியினருக்குத் தாக்கீது அனுப்பியிருக்கிறார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I want notice."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" May I know whether a copy will be made available to the Members of the Legislature when the report is published? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As soon as the examination at the Secretariat level is over, the suggestion will be considered."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is Rajaji's proposal for the appointment of Regional Commissioners contemplated in the scheme under examination by the Committee? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That has not been referred to the Committee as such. But the working of the Revenue Board was looked into by a Board Member and not by the Committee."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Will the Government be pleased to give a gist of the main recommendations of the Committee? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member may wait for some time."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" The Hon. Minister said that the Government were considering the report submitted by the Committee. May I know whether at this consideration stage, the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of supplying a copy of the report to the Members? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That question was put by Sri V. R. Nagarajan and answered."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The Demand relating to District Administration is coming up before the House on 7th March 1955. It will enable the Members to make useful suggestions if a summary of the recommendations of the Committee is circulated to the Members before that date. May I request the Hon. Minister to consider this suggestion? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Certainly I shall consider that suggestion."

Commonwealth Trust, Limited, Kozhikode.

* 1026 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any recommendation from the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, for referring the dispute between the workers and the management of the Handloom Section of the Commonwealth Trust, Limited, Kozhikode, for adjudication regarding the retrenchment of 144 workers in September 1954, etc.; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The conciliation and confidential reports of the Labour Officer in the matter were received.

" (*b*) The Government found that there was no case for adjudication and informed the parties concerned accordingly."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Labour Officer recommended the reference of this dispute to adjudication and what considerations made the Government turn down the request of the workers for referring the dispute to adjudication? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Labour Officer pointed out in his report to the Government that the workers were divided between two unions, one affiliated to the Communist Party and the other to the Indian National Trade Union Congress. He pointed out that the management discussed the question of retrenchment of 118 people with these two unions. The other 26 people were to be superannuated. Both the unions agreed with the management on the question of retrenchment and came to a settlement. The Labour Officer specifically recommended to the Government and the Commissioner of Labour agreed with him that there was no case for adjudication because the Labour Unions sought to go against the very settlement to which they agreed."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" When there is agreement 9 a.m. between the management and the workers and the management commit any breach of the agreement, the Government are taking